

- <sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 146-7.  
<sup>37</sup> Cf. Van Tilburg, "Reconstructing" for an account of a modern day replication of moai carving and erecting.  
<sup>38</sup> Lingis, 161.

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## TRANSCRIPT OF A LETTER DATED MAY 12, 1953 FROM PADRE SEBASTIÁN ENGLERT (ISLA DE PASCUA, VALPARAÍSO, CORREO NAVAL, CHILE) TO SIR HARRY LUKE (LONDON, ENGLAND).

DEAR SIR HARRY,

As we are expecting a Chilean Navy boat for the beginning of next month, I am writing letters already and when I read again my sister's last letter before writing her, I felt again so deeply, so sincerely thankful to you because you went to see her especially on your way to Salzburg. So I feel compelled to express [to] you again my gratitude for your kindness. My sister was so happy! I think it was one of the happiest days of her life when you visited her although she tells me that she has always been happy during her 25 years as a nun. May God reward you, Sir Harry, for the great kindness you showed my little sister and me! — Here on the island there may be some changes in the future. The Company has been slandered for a long time already, by some bad-intentioned people in the Continent. As a result, the Government denounced the contract with the Company. But it seems that, luckily, the Chilean Navy is taking over the island with the intention of continuing the same system. We don't know anything sure, but rumours have come over the wireless and I hope it will be true. It would be only for the benefit of the natives if the Company, under the supervision of the navy, would carry on her system of work. — In Mataverí, where you were a guest, is now Mr Jack Lord (the Australian). He is always very nice to me. The other manager (Cadiz the Chilean) who went on the *Pinto* with you to the Continent and wanted to come back. But the natives did not want him to stay again in Mataverí. They really rejected him (because they consider him to false, too deceiving) although he came in December, with the intention of remaining he had to quit again. During some time Mr Daly was angry with me too, because I advised him by telegram that it were better for the tranquillity of the island if Cadiz did not return. Now that is all over again and I think that Mr Daly agrees with me. — Since some time ago I am preaching every Sunday and feast day in the native language (Rapanui) in the first mass in the church and the second mass in the Leprosarium. In the third mass I preach in Spanish. I hope to be able to send at the end of the year a manuscript to our printing office in Chile containing Catechism and Bible Stories of the Old and New Testament in Rapanui. You see I have not forgotten the counsels you gave me during your visit here. The natives like it, so I will go on, in spite of the difficulties, especially the lack of intellectual, spiritual themes in the native language. — I never received a letter from Dr Montague. I wonder if he was successful with the pictures he took on the island.

With my best wishes and very kind regards

Yours very sincerely

P. SEBASTIÁN ENGLERT

Editor's Note: Transcript courtesy of David Maddock and Rufus Barnes, who are collaborating in the writing of a book about the postal history of Easter Island.